

REMARKS

Claims 15-21 and 43-49 were pending prior to this Response. By the present communication, no claims have been added, claims 15-21 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 43 and 47 have been amended to define Applicants' invention with greater particularity. The amendments do not raise any issues of new matter and the amended claims do not present new issues requiring further consideration or search. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Accordingly, claims 43-49 will be under consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have canceled claims 15-21, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants have canceled claims 15-21, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 43-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Office alleges that the specification fails to enable methods wherein other Lefty-2 proteins and/or muteins/variants are detected. Applicants have amended claim 43 to recite that the Lefty-2 protein comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In summary, for the reasons set forth herein, Applicants submit that the currently pending claims clearly and patentably define the invention and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner would like to discuss any of the issues raised in the Office Action, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Check number 585534 in the amount of \$1,020.00 is enclosed as payment for the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time fee. No other fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 07-1896 referencing the above-identified attorney docket number. A copy of the Transmittal sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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